

1 Mr E. M. ... 5/5

13(3) DORKING
11/12
1/11
1/11
2nd
+ HORLEY

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1954

-----oOo-----

West Hill House,
West Hill,
EPSOM,
Surrey.

October, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report for the year 1954 which has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

The year can justly be described as healthy, for while the birth-rate showed a slight increase on the level of recent years, the death-rate declined to the lowest figure recorded since the Rural District was constituted. The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was again small. The number of deaths from tuberculosis, while higher than in the past few years, continued to show a marked decline on the figures recorded in the period 1934 to 1948.

The incidence of most infectious diseases was lower than in 1953 though two cases of paratyphoid fever occurred, the first to be recorded since 1947. Four notifications of poliomyelitis were received, and this disease now causes more anxiety than any other of the infections.

During the year consideration was given by the Council to further schemes for the provision of main drainage in those parishes deficient in this most important service. Details of these, and of the extension of sewers in parishes already having main drainage will be found in Section 3 of this report.

Details relating to housing and rehousing are given in Section 4 of my report, and also in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am most grateful for the continued support of the Council in matters affecting the improvement of the public health, and to the officers of the Council's staff for their help. The conscientious work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his assistants deserves special attention.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954-1955

PARISH

Abinger

Mrs.
Mr.

Irene Carr
Alfred Farley

Betchworth

Major Gen.
Mr.

E. H. Goulburn
C. F. Keen

Vice-Chairman of the Council

Buckland

Col.

T. R. B. Sanders

Capel

Mrs.
Mr.

B. H. Holland
G. J. Stack

Charlwood

Mr.
Mrs.
Mr.

J. W. Shephard
Ruth Sewill
G. H. Sharpe

Chairman of the Council

Headley

Mrs.

R. H. Maunsell

Holmwood

Captain
Group-Capt.

E. H. T. Broadwood
H. W. Scott

Horley

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Captain
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

C. H. Bishop
H. W. Fryer
J. E. Cumming
H. E. F. Norris
G. W. B. Palmer
W. A. P. Sealy
W. A. Searle
E. G. Watson
F. A. Woodruff

Chairman of the Committee

Leigh

Mr.

V. S. Wood

Newdigate

Mr.
Mr.

G. R. Horley
H. T. Whittingham

Ockley

Mr.

V. H. Deuchar

Vice-Chairman of the Council

Wotton

Group-Capt.

F. Whitworth

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Cyrus Ive, M.B., B.S., (Lond.) M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

and

Housing Officer

Erio A. Atkinson

M.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

D. D. Heath
R. R. Charman

M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Housing Assistant

K. G. Cooper

A.I. Hsg., A.R. San. I.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk:
Shorthand/Typist:
Telephonist:

C. H. Argent
Miss E. E. Nolan
Mrs. M. E. Joseph

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff


Shorthand/Typists:

Miss E. M. Knight
Mrs. P. B. Knight
Miss M. Bradley
(appointed 11.1.54)

Pests Officer

W. J. Woodard

—000—



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29165301>

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	Birth rate per 1,000 Population	
Total Live Births	437	212	225		15.8
Legitimate "	416	203	213		
Illegitimate "	21	9	12	Standardised Birth Rate	16.8
Still Births	6	1	5	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	13.5
				Rate per 1,000 population	0.22
<u>Deaths</u>	248	136	112	Crude death rate	9.0
				Standardised death rate	8.1
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total infant deaths	8	7	1	Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.3
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 month of age</u>					
Total Neonatal deaths	5	4	1	Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	11.4

Table I shows a comparison of the vital statistics of the year for the district with those for 1953.

Table II shows a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 437, of which 212 were males and 225 were females. The crude birth rate was 15.8 per 1,000 of the population. A comparability factor (1.06) has been provided by the Registrar-General to allow for the differing age and sex distribution in different areas. This permits comparison of the local rate to be made with those of other districts. After application of the factor a standardised rate of 16.8 is obtained. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

DEATHS

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 248, representing a crude death rate of 9.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.3 for England and Wales. The total included 136 males and 112 females. The death rate is the lowest yet recorded for the district.

A comparability factor (0.90) has been provided by the Registrar-General which may be applied to the crude death rate for use in comparing the local death rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of local populations. Application of the factor to the local crude death rate give a standardised rate of 8.1.

Deaths (cont.)

Nearly 50% of deaths took place in hospitals.

The causes of death are set out in Table III. Heart disease, diseases of the circulatory system and cancer were again the most frequent causes of death in the older age group. The average age at death of males was 63.8 years and of females 70.0 years.

Deaths of residents due to accidents involving motor vehicles numbered 5. This is the highest figure to be recorded since the period 1940-1942, when traffic was operating under wartime blackout conditions.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 8 and the infant mortality rate was 18.3 per 1,000 live births. Comparable figures for 1953 were 6 deaths and an infant mortality rate of 14.3. The rate for England and Wales was 25.5.

Three of the deaths occurred within one month of birth.

Six of the infant deaths were caused by conditions which are not fully understood, producing congenital defects not compatible with life in 4, and premature births with insufficient strength to survive in 2. The prevention of this wastage cannot be expected without further knowledge of the underlying factors, and an enquiry is now being started in Surrey which may allow progress to be made.

One of the remaining deaths was caused by an infection of the lungs. Another was in the unfortunate category of preventable deaths in that the child was accidentally suffocated in its cot. The occasional but regular occurrence of these accidents serve as a reminder of the constant care and vigilance required of a mother at all times in the life of a child, and particularly so in the first few months.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No death connected with pregnancy was recorded during the year.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of 27,580 showed an increase of 520 on the previous year. Part of this was due to a natural increase, excess of births over deaths being 189. The remainder of the increase must be accounted for by immigration.

The population of the district has increased by 6.8% since 1951.

SECTION 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are provided at the East Surrey and St. John's Hospitals, Redhill, and at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. Examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to either of two Public Health Laboratories of the Medical Research Council, one situated at West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom and the other at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. These laboratories also undertake bacteriological examinations of samples of water supplies, milk and food, including ice-cream and biological examinations for tubercle bacilli in milk.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in sudden illness in streets or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Providing that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

The main ambulance station for the area is the Smallfields section of the Redhill County Hospital (Telephone Smallfields 271) with sub-stations at Victoria Road, Horley and at Harrowlands, South Terrace, Dorking. Calls for the use of an ambulance in the parish of Headley will be answered from the main ambulance station. For accidents or cases of sudden illness the local Emergency Calling System should be used.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Care of Mothers, Young Children, etc.

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help is the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Divisional Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at Caberfeigh, Hatchlands Road, Redhill (Telephone No. Redhill 3206).

I am indebted to the Divisional Medical Officer for the following information relating to clinics in the area.

Time-table of Clinics and their Addresses

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	Ewhurst Village Hall	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m.
	Peaslake Old School Room	2nd & 4th Mon. 2 p.m.
	Holly Bush, Holnbury St. Mary	2nd & 4th Fri. 2 p.m.
	The Vicarage, Betchworth	1st Tues. 2 p.m.
	Wesley Hall, Capel	2nd & 4th Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Charlwood	2nd & 4th Wed. 2 p.m.
	R.A.F. Rehabilitation Unit, Hoadley Court	2nd & 4th Wed. 2 p.m.
	Congregation School Room Walton-on-the-Hill	1st & 3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Mansion House, Leatherhead	Fridays 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, North Holmwood	1st & 3rd Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Station Road, Horley	Wed. a.m. & Fri. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Leigh	2nd Mon. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Newdigate	3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Ockley	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Salfords	2nd & 4th Tues. 2 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Dene Street, Dorking	Mon. & Wed. 2 p.m.
	Reading Room, Westcott	2nd & 4th Mon. 2 p.m.
	Dorking General Hospital	Fri. 9.30 a.m.
	Welfare Centre, Station Road, Horley	Wed. 2 p.m.
	St. John's Hospital Redhill	Tues. 1.30 p.m.
Tuberculosis	Mansion House, Leatherhead	Tues. 1.30 p.m.
	Epsom District Hospital Dorking Road, Epsom	Mon. & Thur. 1.30 p.m.
	Dene Street, Dorking	Fri. 10 a.m.
	1a Cecil Road, Redhill	Thur. 2 p.m., Every 2nd Thur. 5.30 p.m., Tues. 2 p.m., Every 4th Tues. 5.30 p.m.
	44 Waterloo Road, Epsom	Tues. & Thur. 2 p.m. 3rd Thurs. 5.30 p.m.

Time-table of Clinics (cont.)

Family Planning	St. John's Hospital, Redhill	Tues. 6 - 7.30 p.m.
	Epsom District Hospital	Fri. 7 p.m.
Venereal Diseases	St. John's Hospital, Redhill	Males: Mon. 5 - 7 p.m.
	Royal Surrey County	Males: Tues. & Fri. 5 - 7 p.m.
		Females: Mon. 2 - 7 p.m. Thur. 9.30-11 a.m.

(And at the Out-patient Department of many London Hospitals)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of this Act gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness. There is a tendency for some of these old people to cut themselves off from relatives and friends and to refuse all help, and the conditions in which they live may reach a deplorable state of neglect before it is realised by relatives or neighbours that the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Welfare Officer. Removal to hospital or other institution is by then a matter of some urgency to safeguard the invalid's life and to permit the cleaning of filth and rubbish from the existing accommodation.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Order to obtain the compulsory removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for compulsory removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enables authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No action was taken under this section during the year, though investigation was called for in several cases.

SECTION 3SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER SUPPLYPUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Three water undertakings distribute water in the various parishes of the Rural District. They are the East Surrey Water Company, the Dorking Water Company and the Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board.

The Dorking Water Company obtains water from a series of wells sunk into the Folkestone beds on the western outskirts of Dorking and serves the parishes of Capel, Holmwood and Ockley. The East Surrey Water Company obtains most of its water from deep wells in the chalk of the North Downs and supplies the parishes of Betchworth, Buckland, Charlwood, Headley, Horley, Newdigate and Leigh. The water supplied by the Joint Board to Abinger and Wotton comes from deep bore holes in the greensand in Guildford Rural District.

The chemical and bacteriological quality of the piped water supplies has remained consistently satisfactory and of a high standard of purity.

SUPERVISION OF WATER SUPPLIES

- (a) Bacteriological examination - The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination was 35, the reports on which are summarised as follows:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Dorking Water Company	4	-
East Surrey Water Company	2	-
Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board	1	-
Private Wells	3	12
" Springs	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>
	21	14

- (b) Chemical examination - Four samples of water were submitted to chemical examination with the following results:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Dorking Water Company	1	-
East Surrey Water Company	1	-
Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board	1	-
Private Spring	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	3	1

Public Water Supplies (cont.)

Typical reports on chemical samples taken in the areas of supply of the three Water Companies are as follows:-

Table of Comparative Chemical Analysis (parts per 100,000)

	<u>Dorking</u> <u>Water Co.</u>	<u>East Surrey</u> <u>Water Co.</u>	<u>Guildford, etc.</u> <u>Joint Board</u>
Total Solids (dried at 1800)	29.0	18.0	30.0
Combined Chlorine (Equivalent to Sodium Chloride NaCl.)	2.1	2.1	1.9
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	3.5	3.5	3.1
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	0.66	0.76	0.58
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil	Minute	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil	0.0026	Nil
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 27°C	0.0010	0.0006	0.0004
Lead or Copper	0.009	0.10	.005
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Permanent Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	11.5	4.5	11.0
Total Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	6.0	5.0	5.0
	17.5	9.5	16.0

WATER SHORTAGE AT ABINGER COMMON

During the year complaints were received concerning shortage of water in the Abinger Common area within the supply limits of the Guildford, Godalming District Water Board. Representations to the Board produced a reply to the effect that it was proposed to lay a new main from Hurtwood to Sutton Abinger which it was expected would bring about an improvement in supplies.

It has, however, also been stated by the Board that "most of the mains in the rural area are undersized" and that "until the skilful linking of these small pipes with new arterial mains has been carried out there is no hope of a complete and adequate supply throughout the area" (Vide Annual Report No. 1.)

EXTENSION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 208 premises were connected to piped water supplies, details being as follows:-

	<u>New Houses</u> + <u>Private</u>	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>
Dorking Water Company	10	10	12
East Surrey Water Company	82	86	8
Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	92	96	20

+ The term "new houses" includes flats in houses structurally altered during the year.

Extension of Piped Water Supplies (cont.)

The latest survey of the water supplies to occupied buildings gives the following results:-

Estimated number of houses with a piped water supply	8,033
" " " " " well water supply	144
" " " " dependant on springs	53
" " " " with rainwater storage facilities	1
" " " " without proper water supply	9

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Six of the 12 parishes in the rural district are provided with systems of main drainage. A short description of each installation was given in the Report for 1950.

The improvement in the standard of the effluent discharged by the Horley Sewage Works noted in the Annual Report for 1952, was continued.

The sewer extensions in Capel, Horley and Abinger Hammer mentioned in the last Annual Report were all put in hand during the year. The work of connecting the various houses to the new sewers was undertaken by the Council at the request of the owners, and the cost spread over an agreed term of years. By the end of the year agreements for such work had been made, as follows:-

Smallfield Road, Horley	27
White Hart Estate, Capel	27

The extension of the sewer from the Guildford Rural District has not yet reached Abinger Hammer, and no connections have, therefore, been possible.

During the year consideration was given to the provision of further schemes of main drainage as follows:-

<u>PARISH OF ABINGER</u>	Forest Green	to serve 78 houses at an estimated cost of £13,000.
	Abinger Common	to serve 44 houses at an estimated cost of £6,500. (This scheme includes the taking over of the sewage disposal plant constructed by the Ministry of Works to deal with sewage from the Fire Service College at Wotton House).
<u>PARISH OF BUCKLAND</u>		Parts I and II of the completed scheme to serve 100 dwellings at an estimated cost of £30,520.
<u>PARISH OF HORLEY</u>	Ironsbottom	to serve 24 houses at an estimated cost of £2,100.

Approval of these schemes was given by the Council in principle and the Officers were instructed to proceed with the preparation of the necessary details.

DRAINAGE OF HOUSES

The drainage arrangements of the 208 premises connected with piped water supplies during the year was as follows:-

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Sewers</u>	<u>Septic Tanks</u>
Local Authority	-	96	-
Private Dwellings	<u>23</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>-</u>
	23	185	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The drainage arrangements of the houses in the rural district is estimated to be:-

No. of houses connected to sewer	4,511
No. of houses connected to cesspools	2,618
No. of houses connected to septic tanks	268
No. of houses without proper drainage arrangements	<u>653</u>
	<u>8,290</u>

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation in the houses in the rural district is estimated to be as follows:-

No. of houses with water closets	6,640
No. of houses with chemical closets	365
No. of houses with pail closets	1,279
No. of houses with privies	<u>6</u>
	<u>8,290</u>

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council continued their undertaking to empty cesspools six times a year, free of charge, and an increasing quantity of material was discharged into the sewers in various parts of the district. This practice while much to be preferred to the indiscriminate tipping on land, is, nevertheless, not without its risks. The continual vigilance of the Engineer and Surveyor on this aspect has obviated any major deterioration in the standard of effluent produced by the sewage works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service operates under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor, and no changes were introduced during the year.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

There are two swimming pools to which the public are admitted. Three samples of swimming bath water were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following return has been made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	M/c Line No., E	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1	2	3	4	5	6
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	47	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	82	1	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		130	4	1	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	M/c Line	Number of cases in which defects were Found Remedied Referred to H.M. H.M.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Want of cleanliness	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	7	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors	8	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	9	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient		1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		1	1	-	-	-

No outworkers lists were issued to other local authorities.

Factories (cont.)

The 130 premises on the Register of Factories on the 31st December, 1954 were as follows:-

	<u>Part A</u>	<u>Part B</u>
Addressograph Manufacturers		1
Agricultural Engineers		2
Aircraft Repairers		3
Bakers	3	2
Ball Bearing Manufacturers		1
Band Saw Maker		1
Boot and Shoe Repairers	7	2
Broom Makers	1	-
Brick Works		8
Builder's Workshops	9	3
Cycle Repairers	7	-
Drawing Office Equipment Manufacturers		1
Electrical Engineers		1
Engineers		5
Explosive Manufacturers		1
Fine Art Stationery Manufacturers		1
Flue Block Manufacturers		1
Furniture Makers	4	1
Fur Processors		1
Gas Manufacturers		1
General Engineers		3
Garages and Motor Engineers	2	18
Instrument Maker	1	-
Laundries		4
Lime Works		1
Plastic Manufacturers		2
Portable Building Makers		3
Printers		5
Radio Repairers	5	-
Research Laboratories		3
Rubber Tyre Processing		1
Sawyers		2
Super Charger Manufacturers		1
Tailors	2	-
Tool Makers		3
Undertakers	2	-
Watch Repairers	4	-
Valet and Dry Cleaners	-	1
	<u>47</u>	<u>83</u>

SECTION 4HOUSING1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-----|
| 1. | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 676 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 884 |
| 2. | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | - |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | - |

No houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 for the reason that following the completion of the "Hobhouse" survey all dwellings to which the Regulations were considered to apply, have been inspected and recorded.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|----|
| 3. | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 11 |
| 4. | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 37 |

11. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|----|
| | | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 31 |
|--|--|---|----|

111. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|----|
| (a) | | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| 1. | | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 12 |
| 2. | | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| | (a) | by owners | 10 |
| | (b) | by local authority in default of owners | 2 |
| (b) | | Proceedings under Public Health Acts | |
| 1. | | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring to be remedied | 5 |
| 2. | | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| | (a) | by owners | 5 |
| | (b) | by local authority in default of owners | - |

Housing (cont.)

111.

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936
- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 7 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 7 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - |
| 2. | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | - |
| | Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were received that the premises would not be re-occupied until made reasonably fit for human habitation | 4 |

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES

During the year continued progress was made in the provision of new houses, both by the Council and by private enterprise. The number of Council houses and flats brought into occupation was situated as follows:-

Betchworth	34
Headley	6
Horley	50
Newdigate	12

The total number of houses and flats owned by the Council on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows:-

Post-War completed and occupied	821
Number under construction	102
Number of pre-war houses	<u>210</u>
	<u>1,133</u>

SECTION 5.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details of the work done by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff in connection with the safety of food supplies in relation to health are to be found in his report.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continued to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 110 samples for analyses were taken in this district by his staff. Of these 94 were of milk, 6 of margarine, 4 of preserved fruit and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of food-stuffs. Two samples of milk and 2 of margarine were found to be below standard.

The information was also given that within that part of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 1,504 samples were taken for analysis, including 1,206 of milk. Seventy-eight samples were found to be adulterated or irregular, 53 of these being of milk. Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained against a dairy farmer for selling 3 samples of milk containing added water.

SECTION 6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notification of Infectious Disease

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1954 classified according to age and sex. Table V shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the various Parishes.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year notifications were received from medical practitioners of 299 primary vaccinations and 127 re-vaccinations which had been performed by them. Of the primary vaccinations 247 related to children under the age of one year, equivalent to 56.5% of the number of births registered in the district during the year. The comparative figure for 1953 was 59%.

SCARLET FEVER

Thirty-two cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 26 for the previous year. The incidence rate per 1,000 population was 1.16. The fact that 7 cases only were admitted to hospital was evidence that this illness continued to be mild in character.

DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in the district.

Reference to Table VI indicates the decline which has taken place in the incidence of this disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The aim is for every child to receive a primary treatment in its first year of life with reinforcing treatments every 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Centres, serving the district, of which details are set out on page 8. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. Clinics in schools are arranged as required by the Divisional Medical Officer for pupils requiring treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation (cont.)

Notifications were received that 386 children received primary treatment and that 562 received reinforcing doses. Possibly some children may have been treated privately or in other districts, about whom information has not been received. The following figures show how the facilities for treatment have been used.

	<u>Primary Treatment</u>	<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>
Treated at Clinics and Schools	122	528
Treated by General Practitioners	<u>264</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>386</u>	<u>562</u>

In the case of 184 infants the treatment was completed before reaching the age of one year.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 56% of children under the age of 15 years had been treated and were still in an effective state of immunity. The comparable figure for 1954 was 52%.

With the materials now available it is possible to combine diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus immunisation in one series of injections.

PARATYPHOID B INFECTION

Two notifications of paratyphoid B infection were received, the first cases of this disease to have been reported in the district since 1947. One patient was a male adult resident in Charlwood Parish, who became ill in May. Investigations failed to reveal the source of infection, of which there was no spread. The second case occurred in November in an infant staying temporarily in Ockley. This patient's infection was traced to its maternal grandmother resident in the north of England, with whom the child had been staying before coming to Ockley and who was known to be a chronic carrier of paratyphoid organisms. The diagnosis of the disease in the infant was made sufficiently early for effective steps to be taken to prevent further spread of infection.

POLIOMYELITIS

Four cases were notified, 3 of them being of the non-paralytic type in which complete recovery occurred after a short illness. The fourth case to be notified was in an adult whose illness was severe and which progressed to general paralysis and a fatal termination 2 weeks after the onset. Subsequent laboratory investigations of material obtained from this case showed that death was due to a virus infection, but not to the virus of poliomyelitis.

MEASLES

One hundred and twenty-one cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 629 in 1953. The case rate per 1,000 population was 4.39. No deaths were recorded from the disease during the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH

One hundred and three cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, the incidence rate being 1.16 compared with 0.96 in 1953. No deaths were registered from the disease.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Notifications were received from various sources that 340 children had received a primary course and 22 children had received reinforcing doses. The majority received the treatment in combination with immunisation against diphtheria.

FOOD POISONING

Six cases of food poisoning were notified during the year giving an incidence rate of 0.22 per 1,000 population. In three cases the causative organism was the *Salmonella typhi-murium*, two patients being members of the same family. One patient was an infant of 3 months infected with an organism identified as *Salmonella Tennessee*. In 2 cases the responsible organism was not isolated.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year the names of 39 persons were added to the tuberculosis register, and 34 removed. Details of these alterations are as follows:-

<u>Additions to Register</u>		<u>Removals from Register</u>	
Formal notifications relating to residents already residing in the district	19	By Removals to other Districts	18
Transfers of residents notified in other areas, now residing in this district	<u>20</u>	By Recovery	7
	39	By Death	9
			<u>34</u>

In 2 cases the cause of death was not tuberculosis.

At the end of the year the number of names on the register was as follows:-

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Male	51	23
Female	<u>54</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>105</u>	<u>42</u>

Notifications

Nineteen formal or primary notifications were received from medical practitioners of persons certified to be suffering from tuberculosis. In Table IV these are classified by sex and age and into pulmonary and non-pulmonary types of disease. In Table V the incidence in each Parish is shown.

Tuberculosis (cont.)

Deaths

Six deaths from tuberculosis were assigned to the district giving a death-rate of 0.22, the figure for 1953 being 1 death and a rate of 0.04. The death-rate compares with the rate of 0.18 for England and Wales. The increase in the number of deaths on last year has no special significance, and the fluctuations in the death-rate are likely to be smoothed out when an average is made over a 5 yearly period, as has been done in preparing the figures shown in Table VII.

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Children and Adolescents

Nine out of the 19 primary notifications of tuberculosis relate to persons of 20 years or under. In 3 cases the source of their infection was from an infectious person in the family group. In 4 patients the disease was located in the neck glands and in 1 in the peritoneum, and in these cases the infection may have been caused by the bovine type of bacilli.

B.C.G. Vaccination

As reported last year, the Ministry of Health were prepared to consider schemes for the treatment with B.C.G. vaccine of schoolchildren between 14 and 15 years. The members of this age group were selected because of the inevitable increased rate of infection which they incur on leaving school to take up employment. The Surrey County Council submitted a scheme which received the approval of the Ministry, the operation of which was commenced during the year. Dr. T. H. Bingham, Divisional Medical Officer for the Southern Division of the County Health Service has given the information that of the two schools concerned in the rural district one has been dealt with. In this there were 80 children in the age group affected to whom treatment was offered, parental consent was obtained in 56 (70%); preliminary Mantoux testing was positive, and treatment unnecessary in 10 children (20%) and that 38 children were vaccinated representing 47.3% of the age group to whom it was offered. The result can be regarded as a successful start to the scheme.

A considerable number of children belonging to families in which there was a known source of infection were also tested and, when necessary, treated with B.C.G. This is a valuable procedure, but often infection has already been spread under such circumstances before the nature of the illness has been diagnosed, as occurred in some of the cases mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Mass Radiography

During the year a visit was paid to the Salfords Factory Group by the Mass Radiography Unit. I am indebted to the Medical Director of the Unit for the information that 1,110 males and 453 females took the opportunity to be examined. Among them were found 2 persons with active pulmonary tuberculosis, 61 with inactive pulmonary tuberculosis and 39 with non-tuberculosis abnormalities. The incidence rate of active pulmonary tuberculosis of 1.2 per 1,000 examined was the average figure for the County of Surrey as a whole.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND MATERNAL
MORTALITY RATES AND INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES FOR THE YEARS 1953-1954

	1954	1953
<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.8	15.6
Still Births	0.22	0.26
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	9.0	9.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.22	0.04
Influenza	-	0.18
Smallpox	-	-
Poliomyelitis	0.04	-
Pneumonia	0.29	0.30
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.07	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.16	0.96
Whooping Cough	3.66	7.06
Diphtheria	-	-
Erysipelas	0.18	0.26
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	4.39	23.24
Pneumonia	0.47	1.26
Poliomyelitis:-		
paralytic	0.03	0.04
non-paralytic	0.11	-
Food Poisoning	0.22	0.15
Tuberculosis:-		
pulmonary	0.40	0.59
non-pulmonary	0.29	0.18
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>		
Deaths under 1 year of age	18.3	14.3
Deaths under 4 weeks of age	11.4	6.9
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births</u>		
Still Births	13.5	16.4
Puerperal Pyrexia (Notification of)	-	2.34
Maternal Mortality	-	-

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1931-1954

Period	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births	
	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley
1931-1940	14.9	14.1	12.2	12.0 (10.6x)	57.1	45.3
1941-1950	17.02	17.4	11.7	11.3	42.6	32.0 (13.2+)
1951	15.5	15.8 (15.5x)	12.5	12.4 (11.3)	29.6	19.4 (8)
1952	15.3	16.5 (16.2)	11.3	11.1 (10.1)	27.6	9.2 (4)
1953	15.5	15.6 (16.5)	11.4	9.3 (8.4)	26.8	14.3 (6)
1954	15.2	15.8 (16.8)	11.3	9.0 (8.1)	25.5	18.3 (8)

x Bracketed figures represent standardised rates

+ Bracketed figures represent number of deaths

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

	M	F	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	5	-	5
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	18	27
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	16	35
18. Coronary disease, angina	19	10	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
20. Other heart disease	24	24	48
21. Other circulatory disease	9	7	16
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	6	2	8
24. Bronchitis	10	2	12
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	3	1	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	2	5
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	136	112	248

TABLE IV

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE AND SEX

	Under 1 year		1 - 2		3 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 & over		All ages		Total all ages both sexes
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	3	11	11	10	11	1	12	1	2	1	3	-	3	-	-	15	17	32
Whooping Cough	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	51	103
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	3	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	1	3	5	13	15	36	36	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	62	121
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	-	9	2	12
Poliomyelitis:-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	5	6	11
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	8

TABLE V

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY PARISHES

	Abinger	Betchworth	Buckland	Capel	Charlwood	Headley	Holmwood	Horley	Leigh	Newdigate	Ockley	Wotton	TOTAL
Tuberculosis:-	1	1		1									
Pulmonary				1				8		1			11
Non-Pulmonary				1				9		1			8
Typhoid Fever													
Paratyphoid Fever													
Meningococcal Infections													
Scarlet Fever			1	1	4		2	25	1	1			32
Whooping Cough	3		1	6	1			27	1	2	60		103
Diphtheria													
Erysipelas				1				4					5
Smallpox													
Measles		1			3		3	114					121
Pneumonia			1		1		1	9					12
Poliomyelitis:-													
Paralytic													
Non-Paralytic	1										1		1
Food Poisoning				2			1	4			1		3
Puerperal Pyrexia													9
Dysentery													6
Malaria							1						1
	5	2	3	12	10		8	197	1	4	63		305

TABLE VI

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT 1934-1954

Year	Number of cases notified in the period 1934-1954	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population
1934-1938	10.6	0.53	0.04
1939-1943	2.2	0.93	0.04
1944-1948	1.6	0.07	-
1949-1953	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY FROM 1934-1954

Year	Primary Notifications Number	Annual Average Rate per 1,000 Population	Average Annual No. of Deaths	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1934-1938	16	0.77	12	0.59
1939-1943	20	0.90	11	0.46
1944-1948	24	1.05	11	0.48
1949-1953	19	0.73	4	0.16
1954	19	0.69	6	0.22



PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

"Brookmead",
Station Road,
DORKING,
Surrey.

September, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department for the year 1954.

The year 1954 was notable for two events which materially affected the work of the Department.

First, the re-opening of slaughterhouses, which is discussed more fully later in the Report, and secondly, the increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants.

This has led to a re-arrangement in the order of priorities but as the figures show this has not been effected at the expense of supervision of food premises. There has been a falling off, however, in "routine" inspection particularly of shops and workplaces, and so far I see no prospect of overtaking the arrears of work in this connection.

Once again I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the support which I have enjoyed from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, my grateful acknowledgment of the help and assistance offered by the Medical Officer of Health and to the members of my staff my thanks for the way in which they have individually and collectively done so much to make the work of the Department "team-work" in its widest sense.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC A ATKINSON

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Inspections

The total number of inspections on various public health matters was 2,375 as compared with 2,295 in 1953. No changes in staff occurred during the year.

Details of the various inspections are as follows:-

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1954

<u>Housing Act, 1936</u>	Inspections of Dwellings	475
	" re Overcrowding	5
	Visits re housing applicants	14
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	Inspections of Dwellings	201
	" " Moveable dwellings	22
	" re Water Supply	37
	" " Drainage Work	193
	" " Defective Cesspools	152
	" " Ditches and Water-courses	18
	" " Verminous persons	1
	Visits re Infectious Diseases	137
	" " Rooms disinfected	21
	" " Pests (by Sanitary Inspectors)	71

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1937

Inspections of Bakehouses	10
" re Butchers' Shops	23
" " Cafes and Restaurants	27
" " Dairies and Milkshops	23
" " Ice Cream Dealers	9
" " Licensed Premises	13
" " Other food premises	48
" " Farms and Cowsheds	3
Visits to inspect unsound food	78
" " Slaughterhouses	160

<u>Factories Act, 1937</u>	Inspections of Factories with power	3
	" " Outworkers premises	1

Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928

Inspection of Petroleum Stores	16
--------------------------------	----

<u>Sampling</u>	No. of samples taken - Milk	333
	Water	41
	Utensil Swabs	1
	No. of pathological specimens collected	43
	Other unclassified visits	196

2,375

NOTICES

Ninety-eight preliminary notices were issued during the year, under various Acts and Regulations, as follows:-

Housing Act, 1936

Section 9	17
-----------	----

Public Health Act, 1936

Section 39	Insufficient or inadequate drainage	11
Section 50	Overflowing or leaking cesspools	22
	Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at restaurants, etc.	2
	Polluted ditches and watercourses	13
	Offensive accumulations	2
Section 93	Insanitary premises	20

Milk and Dairy Regulations

Unnamed retailing vehicles	3
----------------------------	---

Public Health (Water) Act 1945

Of these 98 notices 57 were complied with without further action and in 16 cases statutory notices were issued. Twenty-eight preliminary and four statutory notices were outstanding on the 31st December, 1954.

The ten preliminary notices and four statutory notices outstanding at the beginning of the year were complied with during the year.

WORK IN DEFAULT

The execution of certain work in default of the owners was carried out in four instances, as follows:-

- 1 Housing repairs in three cases
- 2 Repairs to combined drain

Three instalment orders were made for the recovery of the cost of the works, and in the other case payment was made in full.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1. Proceedings were taken under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 against the proprietor of a Restaurant in respect of dirty walls, ceilings and floors of the kitchen; and absence of soap and clean towels for use of persons employed; walls and floor not in a proper state of repair; and dirty refrigerator. At the first hearing the Magistrates adjourned the summonses to allow defendant to complete work which he had started, and at the resumed hearing when it was reported that the work had not been completed, the magistrates imposed fines of 2/6 on six summons and 5/- on the seventh (that relating to the provisions of soap and clean towels). The defendant was also ordered to pay £7. 7s. 0d. costs.

On behalf of the Council it was stated that their costs were £23. 1s. 5d.

Legal Proceedings (cont.)

In a previous annual report I commented on the fact that registration was a very desirable condition and safeguard that should be imposed before any premises are used for the consumption, preparation, storage or sale of food. One is tempted on reflection to wonder whether the removal of the premises from such a register would not have been a more effective sanction than legal proceedings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Generally

The supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold has been maintained throughout the year. Details on the Food Premises Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Estimated No. in District</u>
Bakers' Shops	5	5
Bakehouses	4	4
Butchers	14	14
Fishmongers	2	2
Cafes	24	24
Factory Canteens	5	7
Fried Fish Shops	2	2
Grocers	14	16
Greengrocers	8	12
Hotels	5	7
Ice-cream Dealers	58	58
Ice-cream Manufacturers	3	3
Public Houses	32	34
School Canteens and Kitchens	3	3
Snack Bars	3	3

Milk

Sampling is restricted to milk retailers retailing in the district and to school supplies. Particular attention has been paid to ungraded raw milk when submitting samples for the biological examination for tubercle bacilli. Three hundred and thirty-two samples were taken during the year, of which 295 were submitted for biological examination, and 37 to bacteriological examination. The results of the bacteriological examinations were as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	13	13	-
Tuberculin Tested	67	59	8
Pasteurised	173	165	8
Sterilised	8	8	-
Ungraded	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>-</u>
	295	279	16

Of the eight samples of milk failing the prescribed tests for tuberculin tested milk, six were from retailers whose premises were outside the rural district, and of the eight pasteurised samples failing the tests, five were also from retailers outside the district. In all cases the results of the sampling were sent to the local authorities concerned.

Milk (cont.)

Biological Examination for Tubercle Bacilli

The 37 samples submitted for biological examination were reported to be negative for the tubercule bacillus

1.	Raw Milk	Tuberculin Tested	26
		Non-designated	<u>11</u>
			37
			<hr/>

Pasteurising Plant

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district. The Surrey County Council as the Food and Drugs Act Authority is responsible for the issue of the appropriate licences, but by arrangement the Chief Sanitary Inspector exercises supervisory control.

Registration and Licence

Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 2 order 1954

This order which came into force in the rural district on the 21st October, 1954 made compulsory the use of special designation in relation to milk sold by retail. This meant that no raw ungraded milk could be sold in the prescribed area. As a result a number of retailers gave up their rounds, and where they were also producers of undesignated milk, made arrangements for their milk to be sent to pasteurising establishments; the number of retailers on the register dropped from 33 to 14.

Slaughterhouses

During the year circular 4/54 was issued by the Ministry of Food in which it was stated that it was the Government's intention to make local authorities responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering facilities were accessible to traders to meet the needs of the district. An enquiry was received from Guildford Borough Council as to whether the rural district wished to be included in the area to be served by the large abattoir at Guildford constructed by the Ministry of Food and subsequently acquired by the Guildford Corporation. The Council were unable to accept the suggestion for the following reasons:-

- (i) The uncertain position with regard to the amount of compensation payable in respect of any slaughterhouse closed.
- (ii) The existence of livestock markets at Dorking, Redhill and Horley make it impracticable for butchers to purchase market stock, and forward it to Guildford for slaughter and to receive it later for sale.
- (iii) The demand for slaughtering facilities in the rural district is not at present known, but it is likely that it will be insufficient to warrant special arrangements.
- (iv) That if a centralised slaughterhouse policy is to be adopted, such a slaughterhouse would more conveniently be situated in Dorking or Reigate.

Slaughterhouses (cont.)

The announcement of the removal of restrictions upon the meat trade re-awakened interest in the use of slaughterhouses. So far as could be ascertained slaughterhouses were in use pre-war in the parishes of:-

Abinger (2), Buckland, Capel, Charlwood, Holmwood, Horley, Newdigate and Ockley.

The Council decided that it would issue slaughterhouse licenses to four premises in the rural district - at Charlwood, Capel, Holmwood and Ockley, subject to the premises being reconditioned and brought into line with modern requirements. Subsequently one application (that at Capel) was withdrawn, and the use of the slaughterhouse at Holmwood was deferred.

By the end of the year slaughterhouses were in operation at Charlwood and Ockley.

The re-opening of the Charlwood slaughterhouse led to protests from an adjoining, and other nearby residents. These protests related to conditions at the premises, days and times of slaughtering and alleging that the premises constituted a private, and possibly a public nuisance. The slaughterhouse owner was very co-operative and took all possible steps to reduce inconvenience, so much so that by the end of the year, no further complaints had been received.

As was only to be expected the opening of two slaughterhouses as widely apart as Charlwood and Ockley and as far away from the offices of the Council threw a great strain upon the resources of the department. One hundred per cent inspection of all slaughtered animals was aimed at and achieved, but only at the expense of other work, particularly that relating to unfit houses, and to a considerable increase in the amount of travelling. As an example to inspect the first months' kill at Ockley and Charlwood involved $22\frac{1}{2}$ man hours and a mileage of 1.64 (i.e. the equivalent of nearly 10 working days).

By the end of the year the following animals had been killed and inspected.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Bulls (included in cattle column)
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	179	44	122	40	466	4
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	179	44	122	40	466	4
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u> Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	3	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	8	0	11	20	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15.6	18.1	2.4	27.5	4.3	0

Slaughtering of animals (cont.)

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Bulls (included in cattle column)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	1	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	10	0	0	6	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.1	22.7	0	0	1.3	0

Slaughtermen's Licences

Five licences were issued to slaughtermen practising in the rural district.

Unsound Food

Seventy-eight visits were made to food premises for the purpose of examining food reputed as being unfit for human consumption.

As a result of these visits the following quantities and types of foodstuff were surrendered for destruction.

<u>Meat</u>	Beef (home killed)	263½ lbs.
	" (imported)	427 lbs.
	Veal	34 lbs.
	Pork	358 lbs.
	Ox-tongue	12 lbs.
	Liver	41 lbs.
	Lungs	12 lbs.
	Head	31 lbs.

Canned Foods

<u>Fruit</u>	Cherries	4,539 tins	<u>Vegetables</u> - Peas	101 tins
	Blackcurrants	984 "	<u>Meat</u> - Veal	4 "
	Gooseberries	387 "	Garnon	17½ lbs.
	Blackberries	919 "		
	Peaches	3 "	<u>Fish</u> Pink Salmon	1 tin

Other Foods

Condensed Milk	3 tins	Marmalade	1 jar
Jan	2 jars	Marmite	1 jar
Ketchup	3 bots.	Cream	1 jar
Milk Powder	39 lbs	Ham (cooked)	9 lbs.
Herring roes	2 st.	Bacon	5½ lbs.
Margarine	20 lbs.	Beef Sausage	33 lbs.

The total weight involved was approximately 6 tons 17 cwts. Disposal was by treatment at the Reigate Borough Council Refuse Destructor where an animal food processing plant is available.

HOUSING

In the field of housing 1954 was marked by two events. The first was a survey of that part of the Parish of Horley called Peeks Brook Lane. The area surveyed included 18 premises of various types - brick bungalows (2) and various other structures principally wooden huts. So far as general sanitation was concerned only 2 premises had cesspools emptied by the Council, pail closet sanitation was predominant. Six premises depended upon shallow wells known to be polluted and five lacked a proper water supply.

So far as the provisions of essential services such as water supply and main drainage was concerned the overall cost per dwelling was prohibitive. Upon consideration of this report the Council decided to seek the views of the Planning Authority as to the principle of defining the area as suitable for development, and the use to which the land occupied by existing buildings could be developed if those buildings were cleared.

In the meantime action was taken under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 to prevent an untenanted caravan from becoming re-occupied.

The second incident revolved around the easing of the demand for Council houses whereby the Council were able to deal with 11 premises under the Housing Act, 1936 which were considered to be unfit. The action taken was as follows:-

Demolition Orders

Nos. 1 - 4 Lyalls Cottages, Headley.
Cottage, Trigg Street, Newdigato.

Demolition by Agreement

Nos. 35 - 37 Albert Road, Horley.

Undertakings accepted not to re-occupy

Bungalow, Brook House Hotel, Holmwood.
Duxhurst Farm Cottage, Horley.
Caravan, Peeks Brook Lane, Horley.
2, Diamond Cottages, Mill Lane, Horley.

Improvement Grants

Of the 34 applications received during 1954, 26 were approved, the total amount of grant being £4,621.

Despite extensive publicity by press and radio, the landlord of rented properties appear to be very reluctant or unable to take advantage of the procedures whereby his property can be improved to a reasonably satisfactory standard. From some points of view the spending of money from public funds towards the improvement of private property would appear to be a most reprehensible policy, but when it is considered that a grant of up to £400 will eliminate the necessity of that property having to be replaced by a subsidised council house at a very much higher cost both to tenant and taxpayer, the policy becoming one of stark realisation.

One is left with the conclusion that unless the private landlord takes advantage of the improvement grant scheme he may well precipitate local authorities into acquiring his property and effecting the improvements themselves.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The services hitherto provided by the Council were continued during the year. The Pests Officer is responsible for carrying out the work throughout the rural district, not only relating to rats and mice but also to include other pests.

The following table summarises the work carried out:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All Other including business premises
	1	2	3	4
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	13	8094	260	374
Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 15 months ended 31.3.54 as a result of (a) notification	3	199	3	51
(b) survey under the Prevention of Damage Pests Act, 1949	36	21	27	102
(c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	13	8292	260	398
Number of properties inspected (see Section 11) found to be infested with rats - Major	2	20	1	12
Minor	10	138	26	10
Number of properties on inspection found to be seriously infested with mice	1	13	Nil	5
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	12	158	27	31
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-	25

